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1. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial (RFK Memorial) seeks to promote respect for justice, human rights and the rule of law. It works to accomplish these aims through several programmes. The RFK Book and Journalism Awards recognize authors and journalists, print and broadcast, whose work reflects Robert Kennedy's "concern for the poor and powerless, his struggle for honest and even-handed justice". The RFK National Youth Project works to empower youth in American cities as leaders of their communities and encourages them to cooperate to reduce violence in their neighbourhoods. The RFK Human Rights Award honours individuals who stand up to oppression in the non-violent pursuit of respect for human rights.

The RFK Memorial Centre for Human Rights (the RFK Centre) carries out projects that support, complement or enhance the human rights work of the RFK Human Rights Award laureates and promote respect for human rights in their countries. The RFK Centre investigates and publishes reports on human rights conditions and campaigns to heighten awareness of these issues and to stop abuses, and encourages Governments, international organizations and corporations to adopt policies that ensure respect for international human rights. Through its relationships with the Award laureates, the organizations with which they are affiliated and other activists in their countries, the RFK Centre strives to enhance their capacity, to help marshal the resources necessary for them to work more effectively, to increase the impact of their work and to share the lessons from their experience with the international human rights community.

The RFK Memorial is not a membership organization. It has an International Advisory Committee, currently composed of 70 members from throughout the world, who nominate candidates for the RFK Human Rights Award. The continents and countries represented by International Advisory Committee members are:

Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe; *Americas*: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, United States of America; *Asia and the Middle East*: Cambodia, India, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka; *Europe*: Czech Republic, Finland, France, Netherlands, Poland, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; *Other*: Australia.

For the Memorial's human rights work, its core constituency is made up of the RFK Human Rights Award laureates, with whom the Centre develops a close, collaborative relationship. The continents and countries of the Award laureates are:

Africa: Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, the Sudan; *Americas*: El Salvador, Guatemala; *Asia and the Middle East*: China, India, Indonesia, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam; *Europe*: Poland, Turkey.

There have been no substantial changes in the Memorial's funding sources. It continues to receive the bulk of its support from private contributions and fundraising events. It also receives support from foundations. The domestic National

Youth Project has received grants from the American Government for its work. The RFK Centre does not accept government funding for its work. It did receive a grant of $8,000 in 1997 from the United States Agency for International Development; the entire amount directly supported an internship that the RFK Centre organized in the United States for a young Haitian attorney who manages the Guy Malary Law Library, which the RFK Centre helped to establish within Haiti's National Library.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations activities

The RFK Memorial has participated each year since 1994 in the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. The RFK Memorial presented the following statements at or in conjunction with those sessions:

Commission on Human Rights, fiftieth session, 1994

Oral statement on human rights violations and national security laws.

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session, 1995

Written statement on the draft declaration on human rights defenders, submitted to the pre-sessional working group on the draft declaration on human rights defenders;

Oral statement on human rights violations and national security laws;

Oral statement on United Nations advisory services and human rights monitoring.

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session, 1996

Written statement on human rights violations and national security laws.

The RFK Centre also participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. The RFK Centre presented two workshops for the Non-Governmental Organization Forum participants on international advocacy of human rights, particularly women's rights. The Centre worked before and during the Conference to enhance the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Conference and prepared a report detailing problems encountered at the Women's Conference and the NGO Forum and recommending steps for the United Nations and Governments to take to assure enhanced NGO participation in future United Nations meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant activities

The RFK Centre has cooperated with a number of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights. The RFK Centre has submitted three cases concerning Chinese prisoners to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which communicated two of these cases to the Government of the People's Republic of China as urgent appeals. The RFK Centre has also provided reports and other information regarding human rights issues in China, Guatemala, Kenya, Indonesia and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Independent expert on the situation of human rights in Guatemala and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967.

In 1995 and 1996, while the RFK Centre was carrying out research for the 1996 report, Civil Patrols and their Legacy, Overcoming Militarization and Polarization in the Guatemalan Countryside, the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) provided invaluable assistance and advice. The RFK Centre has continued to cooperate with MINUGUA.

The United Nations Centre for Human Rights office in Malawi provided assistance and some funding for the conference, "Understanding the Past to Safeguard the Future", organized by the University of Malawi and the RFK Centre, in Lilongwe, Malawi, in October 1996. As a result of the Centre for Human Rights' assistance, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Bacre Waly N'diaye, participated in the conference. Following the conference, the representative of the Centre, Mr. N'diaye and the RFK Centre participated in a half-day meeting with the entire Malawi National Compensation Tribunal in Blantyre.

The RFK Centre has also consulted extensively with the United Nations International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) on the Centre-initiated project that led to the establishment of the Guy Malary Law Library in Port-au-Prince.

2. Society for Threatened Peoples

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The Society for Threatened Peoples is an international human rights organization with national sections in Germany (approx. 7,200 members), Luxembourg (approx. 120 members), Italy (approx. 20 members), South-Tyrol (150 members), Austria (approx. 600 members). Switzerland (approx. 800 members) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (approx. 200 members). The main focus of our work is the fight against genocide and discrimination against cultures, languages and religions of threatened minorities and nationalities through the use of press releases, conferences, vigils, talks with parliamentarians and politicians. We make information available for the media and try to attract the attention of the international public. Our archive has directories on several hundred threatened groups and minorities; it is one of the largest documentation centres of this kind in Europe.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

1994

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 18 to 29 July 1994, Geneva (12 persons)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-sixth session 1 to 26 August 1994, Geneva (2 persons)

One oral statement on the situation of the Kanaka Maoli, Hawaii

International Conference on Population and Development, 5 to 13 September 1994, Cairo (1 person)

1995

Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, third session, 16 to 27 January 1995, New York (3 persons)

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session, 30 January to 10 March 1995, Geneva (25 persons)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation)

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

World Summit for Social Development, 6 to 12 March 1995, Copenhagen (3 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-eighth session, 14 to 23 March 1995, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the meaning of the traditional cultivation of cocoa for the indigenous population in Bolivia

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 28 March to 7 April 1995, Berlin (2 persons)

Economic and Social Council, substantive session, 6 June to 28 July 1995, Geneva (1 person)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-seventh session, 31 July to 25 August 1995, Geneva (20 persons)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Crimean Tartars (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Chittagong Hill People (India)

Oral statement on the human rights violations against the Ogoni People (Nigeria)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 17 to 28 July 1995, Geneva (8 persons)

1996

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session, 18 March to 26 April 1996, Geneva (20 persons)

Oral statement on freedom of religion in Tibet (China, item 18)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation, item 10)

Oral statement on the self-determination of indigenous people in general (item 7)

Oral statement on the draft declaration on rights of indigenous peoples

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-ninth session, 16 to 25 April 1996, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Cocoa cultivation, international agreements and anti-drug legislation" (Bolivia)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-eighth session, July/August 1996 (4 weeks), Geneva (10 persons)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, fourteenth session, July 1996 (1 week), Geneva (30 persons)

Oral statement on the situation of the indigenous minorities in India in general

1997

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-third session, 10 March to 18 April 1997, Geneva (26 persons)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Bougainville (Indonesia)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Assam (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Caucasian minority (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Nagomo-Bergkarabach

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, fortieth session, 18 to 27 March 1997, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the meaning of the traditional cultivation of cocoa for the indigenous population in Colombia

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and

psychotropic substances and related activities, first meeting, 26 and 27 March 1997, Vienna (2 persons)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, 20 to 29 May 1997, Geneva (1 person)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, first informal open-ended meeting, 7 to 9 July 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Biodiversity and the politics of drugs"

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-ninth session, 4 to 29 August 1997, Geneva (21 persons)

Oral statement on the situation of the indigenous people in India

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the South Molukkans (Indonesia)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Two oral statements on the human rights situation in Tibet

Written statement on the question of freedom of religion in Tibet (China, item 11)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 28 July to 1 August 1997, Geneva (9 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, second informal open-ended meeting, 7 to 9 October 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral Statement on the theme "Human rights and drug politics in Peru"

Human Rights Committee — Intersessional Working Group on a Draft Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 27 October to 7 November 1997 (7 persons)

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — seventh session of the subsidiary body for implementation, 20 to 29 October 1997, Bonn (3 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, third informal open-ended meeting, 3 to 5 December 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Drugs and alternative development in Colombia"

Other relevant activities

Activities of the Society for Threatened Peoples in relation to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People:

Events marking the opening of the International Decade in Bonn and Berlin in December 1994, including reception by the President of the German Parliament, the organization of a press conference as well as a podium discussion.

Political and financial support of the self-organization of the Adivasi indigenous group, advising the Adivasi representatives at the United Nations in Geneva (at the session of the Commission on Human Rights).

Campaign for the ratification of ILO Convention 169 by Germany and other Western European States.

3. Women's International Zionist Organization

(Special consultative status granted 1959)

Introductory statement

The Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO) is an international voluntary movement of 300,000 women with federations in 52 countries. Since it was founded more than 75 years ago, it has provided services to children, women, families and society, regardless of their race or religious affiliation.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or other United Nations meetings

During the past four years, WIZO multiplied its efforts to ensure implementation, both in spirit and in the letter, of the objectives of the United Nations forward-looking strategies and to fulfil the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action, to safeguard the full equality of women. WIZO has insisted on the creation of full and equal opportunities for women to develop their talents and creative abilities and to facilitate their involvement in the process of development. WIZO has promoted, throughout its federations, educational programmes of friendship and mutual cooperation and exchanges in the achievement of peace. In the past four years, a major concern for WIZO has been to develop services geared specifically to women in the throes of family violence through the creation of legal advice bureaux and shelters for battered women and their children. Towards the advancement of the status of women, WIZO opened additional day-care centres, pedagogic and therapeutic centres. WIZO also opened additional youth clubs, including some in Arab villages.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and the specialized agencies

Since its establishment, WIZO's main efforts have been dedicated to the welfare of children and adolescents. WIZO applauded the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially the new rights that appear for the first time in an international human rights document, such as consideration of a child's ethnic, religious or linguistic

heritage when providing alternative family care. WIZO federations have continued to actively support the work of UNICEF. WIZO organized seminars and other events to strengthen families in ways that increase equality, mutual respect and responsibilities, while taking into account and respecting existing family structures.

Other relevant activities

WIZO has set up the Committee for the Advancement of Women in Politics, the aim of which is to have more women involved in politics by encouraging them to stand for municipal elections.

Action in Implementation of United Nations resolutions: dissemination of information: WIZO encourages the dissemination of information on United Nations bodies among its federations. Visits and tours to the United Nations building have been organized throughout the years.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat: WIZO attendance at United Nations meetings in New York and Geneva: WIZO representatives have attended and/or held consultations with members of the following United Nations bodies or agencies:

Commission on the Status of Women, Vienna, New York;

Commission on Human Rights, Geneva;

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Geneva;

Third Committee sessions of the United Nations General Assembly;

Economic and Social Council sessions, New York, and Geneva;

UNICEF Executive Board meetings in New York.

WIZO representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna regularly attend:

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

Weekly briefings of the Department of Public Information for the non-governmental organization community in New York;

Meetings of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF;

Non-Governmental Organizations committee on the United Nations Women's Decade, New York;

Annual conference of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations for Non-Governmental Organizations.

Consultative activities: 1994-1997

Prior to the extended session of the United nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, WIZO participated in all non-governmental organizations consultative meetings and also in the meetings of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

WIZO participated at the non-governmental organizations meetings in Beijing 1995, in Huairou, China, and in the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995.

In Huairou, China, (August-September 1995), WIZO organized five workshops on cooperation with international women's organizations such as the International Business and Professional Women and the International Alliance of Women.

These workshops were successful and focused on the following topics:

Ageing;

Prevention of domestic violence;

Equality (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women);

Voluntarism and empowering women through parenting education.

Regional meetings and conferences

1994
Nordic Forum, Turku, Finland;

Regional preparatory conference and the regional non-governmental organizations forum for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mar del Plata, Argentina;

Regional non-governmental organizations forum for Europe, Vienna;

The European Council of WIZO Federations is represented at all meetings and sessions of the European Women's Lobby.

1995
WIZO is a member of the National Committees for UNICEF and participates in UNICEF fundraising campaigns;

WIZO was represented at the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen;

WIZO was represented by a large delegation at the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum and at the fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995.

1997
WIZO participated in the seventh United Nations regional conference (ECLAC) held in Santiago, Chile.

4. Centrist Democrat International*

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Nature and objectives

Christian Democratic International (CDI) is an organization of political parties and organizations inspired by integral Christian humanism. Its main values and

* Formerly Christian Democratic International.

objectives are as follows: promotion and defence of human rights and national and international peace; recognition of the social nature of the human being and defence of basic social institutions, particularly the family; promotion and defence of democracy and democratic institutions; promotion of integral human development, with respect for nature and the preservation of natural resources; application of subsidiarity, solidarity and justice through the social market economy.

In order to respond adequately to the new realities which have emerged since the end of the cold war and the establishment of democracy in a considerable number of nations, CDI launched an internal reform process which resulted in the adoption, on 8 and 9 June 1995, of a basic document on principles and values of Christian democracy and of new statutes. During the period covered by this report, CDI expanded its geographical scope; its membership increased from 67 members at the beginning of 1994 to 76 members at the end of 1997.

Relations with the United Nations and participation in its activities

CDI representatives have been accredited every year to the three United Nations headquarters (New York, Geneva and Vienna), the regional economic commissions and the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

CDI has participated in United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the conferences on women's rights (Beijing, 1995) and population (Cairo, September 1994). It has also participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where it has delivered statements on various agenda items.

It has participated in the conference and annual meeting of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations in New York.

The central theme of the Eleventh General Assembly of CDI (Brussels, 8 and 9 June 1995) was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

On 16 April 1994, the Deputy Secretary-General of CDI, together with the Secretaries-General of Socialist International and Liberal International, visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York to express their organizations' support for the World Summit for Social Development, which was to be held the following year in Copenhagen.

The President of CDI met in Geneva on 13 February 1997 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Deputy Director-General for ILO Activities in Europe.

International conferences

CDI has held conferences on the following topics, which coincide with the objectives of the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies: "Humanism and democracy in the twenty-first century" (Santiago, 8 and 9 January 1994), at which the President of Chile made a statement; "An economy with a human face" (Manila, 19 to 23 November 1995), at which the main speaker was the President of the Philippines; "Human development in Latin America" (Santiago, 22 to 24 August 1996), at which the President of Chile was the main speaker; "Political development and religious currents

in the Mediterranean basin" (Barcelona, 26 and 27 February 1997), at which representatives of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and of the President of the European Union, respectively, made statements; "Globalization and National Identity" (Paris, 6 November 1997), at which the main speaker was the President of Romania.

Promotion of peace and democracy

This is considered to be one of the organization's primary responsibilities and it has received ongoing attention. To this end, the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General of CDI have visited the following countries: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines.

There they met with member parties and organizations of CDI, if any, participated in conferences on topics related to the principles and objectives of CDI and, whenever possible, met with government authorities, religious leaders and leaders of civil society. CDI has issued political statements and press releases on the following topics: elections in Equatorial Guinea; condemnation of the attempted coup d'état in Paraguay; need to advance towards unity in Europe; situation in southern Lebanon; presidential elections in Uganda; presidential elections in the Russian Federation; elections in Nicaragua; situation in the former Zaire; democracy for Myanmar; Oslo Agreement on peace in Guatemala; lifting of the embargo on the shipment of food and medicines to Cuba; proposals of CDI to promote positive change in Cuba; solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and with the democratization initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; threats to democracy in Colombia.

Documents and publications

CDI has streamlined its publications in order to adapt to the new international reality and to its new working methods. Its publications include the CDI newsletter (six issues published in French, English and Spanish) and the proceedings of its international conferences.

5. Transnational Radical Party

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Transnational Radical Party (TRP) is a non-violent international political organization founded in 1955.

Since its affiliation with the Council, TRP has followed issues related to human rights, international drug trafficking, international criminal law and linguistic rights at sessions of several United Nations Commissions, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Relations with other international non-governmental organizations

Since 1998, TRP has been a member of the Conference on Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), and recently was among the founders of the New York Non-governmental Organization Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. TRP is also a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. During the past four years TRP has collaborated with several other non-governmental organizations promoting the establishment of informal networks and coalitions to better educate the public on the work of the United Nations and to optimize joint activities regarding specific issues. In 1995, TRP was among the founders of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court, and in 1997, it promoted the creation of the Coalition for an International Language. Both coalitions produce newsletters and participate in United Nations activities related to their mandates.

Participation in United Nations Commissions

Commission on Human Rights

At the fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions TRP delivered written and oral statements on a variety of items, including the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms; violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief; the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; the rights of the child; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; indigenous issues; and conscientious objection to military service.

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

At the forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, TRP delivered written or oral statements on the following items: the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; freedom of movement: population displacements; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; the realization of the right to development; the human rights of women; the human rights of indigenous peoples; protection of minorities; administration of justice and the human rights of detainees; and elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion and belief.

Commission on the Status of Women

At the forty-second session TRP delivered statements on the Beijing Platform for Action and women in armed conflict.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

TRP presented written and oral statements on the following: measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs; promotion of judicial cooperation; the fight against money-laundering; and the eradication of illicit narcotic crops and promotion of alternative development programmes.

Committee on Non-governmental Organizations

TRP submitted a proposal for an agenda item on eventual experimentation of an international auxiliary language at the June 1996 session.

Participation in other United Nations conferences and forums

TRP sent accredited representatives to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) (3-14 June 1996).

TRP circulated literature on its United Nations-related activities to the fiftieth and fifty-first annual DPI/NGO Conferences.

At the special session of the General Assembly on Drugs, TRP delivered a statement. It also took active part in all non-governmental activities such as panel discussions and round tables on drug-related issues and distributed a 20-page briefing paper.

TRP attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court and the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Other relevant activities

To better achieve its objectives TRP has launched several ad hoc campaigns aimed at targeting civil society, the media, and decision makers all over the world. Its major United Nations-related campaigns were "No Peace Without Justice", for issues concerning the establishment of an effective system of international criminal justice, and "Hands Off Cain", for the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on an international moratorium of capital executions. The final stages of the "No Peace Without Justice" campaign were a series of international conferences held in various capitals of the world to urge international support for the proposed court. In order to facilitate the widest possible participation in the work of the Conference on an International Criminal Court, inexpensive fares and special accommodation rates were found for delegates from the least developed countries and some 30 young experts in international law and international humanitarian law were enabled to participate in the various working groups. During the Conference, TRP organized a series of public events.

TRP operates a web site (www.radicalparty.org) containing the latest action alerts, TRP's position papers and news on the different issues set by its congressional motions.

6. International Association for Religious Freedom

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) was founded in 1900 as an association of individuals and groups who share a commitment to work for freedom of religion or belief through interfaith understanding and cooperation. At the end of 1998 IARF had 80 member groups, 10 national chapters, and individual members in 35 countries. The programmes of the IARF include community service and development projects, conferences, publications, and the work of its representations at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. These activities have been planned and supervised by regional offices in New York, Calcutta, Manila, and Tokyo and by the international secretariat in Oxford, England.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

In 1995 IARF was represented at the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human rights by Professor Frank Field, and from 1996 the IARF was represented at those bodies in Geneva by Dr. Gianfranco Rossi. From 1995-1998 IARF had between five and seven representatives attending briefings and various committee meetings in New York.

IARF supported the development of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which has been active in New York at the United Nations since 1992. An IARF representative assisted Professor Amor, Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, when he came to the United States to hold hearings. IARF was one of several non-governmental organizations to make a presentation at the hearing in New York.

IARF led the effort in promoting designation by the General Assembly of an Annual International Day for Freedom of Religion or Belief. Twenty-three non-governmental organizations, including IARF, submitted a joint proposal to the Commission on Human Rights. Since 1994 the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief has co-sponsored, with the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations and the International NGO Committee of Human Rights, the Values Caucus, an annual day for freedom of religion or belief. IARF representatives have always played a major part in planning and carrying out these programmes. The Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance spoke at the 1995 and 1998 events, and the General Secretary of IARF also spoke at the 1998 event.

In 1995 several IARF representatives attended and actively participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women. That same year the IARF General Secretary delivered a speech to the Values Caucus in January as part of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development. The General Secretary also spoke at the United Nations on 25 October 1995 at a meeting sponsored by the Committee of Religious NGOs. In 1998 the IARF General Secretary and IARF representatives Sue Nichols and Dr. Gianfranco Rossi each made a presentation at the Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which was held in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Since 1996 Dr. Rossi has been representing IARF at the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. He has regularly intervened on behalf of victims of religious persecution and intolerance. These interventions are posted on the IARF

web site. His interventions made at the Commission on Human Rights in 1996-1998 included statements on the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, and implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Interventions were made at the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (1996-1998) on the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all countries, the prevention of discrimination against and the protection of minorities, the implementation of human rights with regard to women, and the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief (1997, 34th meeting; 1998, 30th meeting).

Promotion of the United Nations

IARF World is published twice a year and distributed to more than 2,000 households and institutions. Specific articles supporting the United Nations covered the following subjects: religion and human rights in Europe; the special programme for non-governmental organizations at the United Nations sponsored by the Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief; the IARF initiative in Pakistan; religious freedom in Romania; the International Criminal Court; the sixteenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, discrimination in Saudi Arabia, and the persecution of religious minorities, in particular the Pandits, in Kashmir.

In 1996 IARF held its triennial Congress in Iksan, the Republic of Korea. The programme included reports by IARF representatives to the United Nations on their work in support of human rights. Those reports were included in the published *Proceedings* of the Congress and were also made available in 1998 on the web site of IARF. IARF also uses its web site to report on human rights law concerning religious freedom; it has links with United Nations sites and other human rights web sites.

7. International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

Introductory statement

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is an independent international health professional organization that promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture victims and works for the prevention of torture worldwide. The global vision of IRCT is a world without torture which values and accepts shared responsibility for the eradication of torture. IRCT promotes and supports new and existing rehabilitation centres and prevention programmes, initiates emergency intervention projects, and works to secure the necessary funding and political will for the work against torture.

IRCT supports or collaborates with about 200 rehabilitation centres and programmes worldwide. In the reporting period, IRCT directly supported the establishment of a umber of new rehabilitation centres as part of the Regional Strengthening Programme, supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for

Victims of Torture and the European Union (EU), including centres or programmes in Morocco, St. Petersburg, the Republic of Moldova and Cambodia. In addition, with the support of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, IRCT supported the establishment of the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture in Pristina. Another major achievement was the IRCT's intervention in East Timor, resulting in a nationwide survey on the needs of tortured and traumatized East Timorese. In addition, IRCT assisted a local non-governmental organization, Fokupers, in preparing and debriefing rape victims as part of the United Nations Mission in East Timor in November 1999.

IRCT advocated strongly in the United States on behalf of victims of torture, playing a part in the passage of the United States Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA) placing the United States as one of the major contributors to the work against torture. In 1999, IRCT joined with Amnesty International (AI), the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), Fédération international des ACATS — Action des chrétiens pour d'abolition de la torture (FIACAT), Redress Trust and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT/SOS-Torture) to launch the Coalition of International NGOs against Torture (CINAT). CINAT represents the international non-governmental organization work against torture.

IRCT participation in United Nations meetings in the period under review

IRCT participated in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1997, 1998 and 1999 with oral statements under item 11, Civil and political rights, in addition to submission of a written statement. In 1999, CINAT arranged a parallel event during the Commission on the theme of impunity with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as the main speaker and a panel consisting of the IRCT Secretary-General and representatives of the other CINAT members. In 1999, IRCT also presented an oral intervention under item 12, Violence against women. IRCT participated in the Working Group on the development of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1999, 1998 and 1997 and at the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat Meeting in New York in 1998. As part of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, IRCT also participated in the Preparatory Commission meetings on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Criminal Court in June and November of 1999. Representatives from IRCT attended the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IRCT is the leading non-governmental organization in the commemoration of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June. In 1998 and 1999, IRCT coordinated the global campaign, providing relevant campaign materials to United Nations agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, health professional organizations and non-governmental organizations. In 1999, IRCT coordinated 26 June activities with 116 rehabilitation centres and organizations in 80 countries worldwide. IRCT collaborated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York in a joint press conference on 26 June, and with the United Nations Nordic Information Centre in Copenhagen for the

purpose of distributing materials. Finally, IRCT has had contact with the WHO regional office in Copenhagen and with WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Other relevant activities

The work of IRCT includes the promotion of ratification of the Convention against Torture, exertion of political pressure to increase contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and the commemoration of the 26 June International Day. All of these activities are directly relevant to the United Nations resolutions on torture. Representatives from IRCT have participated in informal consultations with the independent experts/rapporteurs regarding the reports on impunity and reparation.

IRCT held consultations with officials of the United Nations Secretariat in a number of meetings. The IRCT Secretary-General and Legal Adviser, together with the Danish Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, held a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary of the Committee against Torture during the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in 1999. The purpose of such meetings was to present IRCT and provide input to the United Nations High Commissioner on the work for the rehabilitation of victims of torture. The Deputy Secretary-General of IRCT held a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner on 9 October 1999 in order to hand over the Delhi Declaration emanating from the Eighth Symposium on Torture in New Delhi, India, organized by IRCT. The United Nations High Commissioner was Patron of the symposium. The IRCT Deputy Secretary-General, Programme Coordinator for International Relations and Legal Adviser held a meeting with the Secretary of the Committee against Torture, the Secretary of the United Nations Voluntary Fund, the Head of External Relations for the Office of the High Commissioner, and the Assistant of the Special Rapporteur on torture on 23 February 1999 in order to discuss inter-unit and external cooperation on torture rehabilitation-related issues.

IRCT supports or collaborates with about 200 rehabilitation centres and programmes worldwide (see above for IRCT intervention in East Timor).

8. Pax Christi International

(Special consultative status granted in 1979)

Pax Christi, the international Catholic Peace Movement, was founded in France in 1945 to foster peace and reconciliation. The movement has national sections, associate groups, affiliated organizations and individual corresponding members on all five continents. Its members, together with the International Council, the Executive Committee and the International Secretariat, are developing a whole series of initiatives to respond to people from all over the world where peace is most needed. Between 1995 and 1998, organizations in Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, Guatemala and El Salvador, and three in India, became affiliated with Pax Christi International. New Pax Christi groups are emerging in places as widely separated as Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Japan. The movement continues to search for new approaches to peace in the fields of demilitarization and security, human rights, ecology, economic justice, development and reconciliation. To work for a just and peaceful world, Pax Christi believes that it

must influence those who have power within the current world order. In the belief that it can be an effective member of collaborative efforts to influence those systems and entities, Pax Christi International sees representation at international and regional governmental bodies as integral to its work.

The representatives of Pax Christi International at the United Nations perform their activities on a voluntary basis. An allowance is fixed each year to contribute to the travel and organizational expenses of the representation. The ordinary budget of Pax Christi International is covered through income received as annual contributions from the Pax Christi national sections. Projects are covered by grants and earmarked donations. The regular work of Pax Christi International is coordinated at the biennial International Pax Christi Council (held in London in July 1997) and by the annual meetings of international commissions and working groups which also give directions for the representations' work in the framework of the consultative status at the United Nations. The three commissions, each with representatives/experts from the national sections, deal with interest areas across regional lines. They are: Commission for Economic Justice/Development, Ecology and Peace; Human Rights Commission; Commission for Security, Demilitarization and Arms Trade. The working groups deal with issues important to particular regions (Africa, Asia/ Pacific, Americas and Caribbean, Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States) or with special themes such as refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants; indigenous peoples, ethnic minority rights and peoples under occupation; impunity and truth commissions; children's rights; rights of women, and freedom of conscience and religion. The studies, research and experience gathered within the commissions and working groups are further substantiated by regional consultations. It is from the direction and focus of the total movement that Pax Christi International's efforts within the United Nations flow and through which the resolutions of the United Nations are implemented. Pax Christi International is a subscribing member of the International Peace Bureau, the World Organization Against Torture and Social Alert. Pax Christi International publishes an e-mail newsletter and a print newsletter in English and French that includes reports and announcements from the international movement and our representatives at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Detailed reports of the work of the Pax Christi United Nations teams are regularly submitted to the Executive Committee and the appropriate commissions and/or working groups of Pax Christi International. United Nations team members also report regularly in the various magazines of national sections of Pax Christi.

1998 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The movement took an active part in the initiatives of the NGO coalition for the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The International Secretariat regularly corresponded with Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General, and Mary Robinson, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on urgent issues such as Iraq and the former Yugoslavia.

The Pax Christi team at the United Nations in New York dealt mainly with the following issues: disarmament, the arms trade and security issues, social development and human rights, interfaith dialogue, child soldiers, street children and refugees. Team members actively participated in United Nations meetings on subjects such as children, the United Nations Arms Register, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and on arms issues in general such as small arms and light weapons, the World Summit for Social Development, Habitat II and the Earth Summit. They

networked with other NGOs with similar agendas, made interventions, attended seminars and study days and developed research files. The team participated actively with the NGO Committee on Disarmament. One representative attended the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly, compiled resource materials on issues such as the Arms Register, and had regular contacts with the United Nations Centre for Disarmament. Other representatives attended the Third Committee meetings on human rights issues. They also attended the various NGO committees: human rights, the family, and ageing. Each year, Pax Christi made an intervention on East Timor at the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization.

The United Nations team spent much of its time on issues related to the World Summit for Social Development and participated at this Summit in 1995. Since then, the team has participated in sessions of the Commission for Social Development charged with follow-up to the Copenhagen Summit. Members were present at the Commission for Social Development in 1998 and made an oral intervention on the link between disarmament, the arms issue generally, and development. Work was also done regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In all activities Pax Christi worked in collaboration with other NGOs, co-sponsoring the NGO Conference on Demilitarization Issues and making interventions at major NGO conferences on disarmament. One of the organization's representatives worked on the Iraq sanctions issue. At the request of Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile, she researched elements for a sanctions policy framework for the United Nations and subsequently wrote a short paper, "Towards a framework for an international sanctions policy".

Representatives attended the Third Committee meetings on issues related to the rights of children. Attention was focused on four specific topics: child soldiers, children affected by armed conflict, street children, and exploited children (including child workers and child prostitutes). Members of the team participated in the NGO Committee for UNICEF and the working groups on children in armed conflict and exploited children.

Representatives were present at the formal presentation and at other events associated with the launching of the United Nations report on the study of the impact of armed conflict on children. Members attended the special meetings with Olara A. Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts. Pax Christi fully supports the recommendations of the report by implementing the relevant recommendations and collaborating with other NGOs on workshops to study and promote the report. At the suggestion of members of the team in New York, an international Pax Christi working group on the rights of the child was formed in 1997.

Pax Christi representatives formed part of the planning committee to assist the United Nations Department of Public Information and NGO Executive Committee to organize the annual NGO Conference in New York. Representatives served on the hospitality committee, chaired one of the major panels, and one was a speaker for the panel on international sanctions. Pax Christi representatives on the inter-faith planning group were involved in preparations for various events such as the United Nations Meditation Room and the Temple of Understanding workshops. They were also involved in preparing ceremonies addressing issues of world religions. Members were present at the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court and at the NGO-ICC caucus meetings.

The team in Geneva was active primarily in the field of human rights, most notably by organizing briefings and making interventions at the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Delegates were also present at meetings of the Working Group on Minorities and the Geneva Review Conference on the Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) on the elimination of anti-personnel mines. The organization's representatives had regular contact with members of the governmental delegations and with the (special) rapporteurs.

Interventions in the United Nations Commission for Human Rights (both written and oral) during the fifty-first, fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions covered the issues of: religious intolerance; torture and disappearances; violations of human rights in all countries; the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; indigenous peoples; fundamental freedoms; detention or imprisonment; rights of the child (including international trafficking of children's organs); the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights; the right to conscientious objection as a basic human right; exploitation of women; mercenaries; impunity; migrants and displaced persons; the debt crisis and the right to development; anti-personnel mines; and extreme poverty. Most of these texts covered agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 24. In a majority of these interventions specific situations or countries were mentioned such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, East Timor, Myanmar, Northern Ireland, Peru, Brazil, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Rwanda and Algeria. Written interventions focused mainly on the situations in Cuba, Colombia and Burundi. Some interventions were made in collaboration with other NGOs, for example on Guatemala, Mexico (Chiapas), Colombia and Turkey. Hearings were organized on the landmines issue and briefings were organized or co-organized on topics such as Chechnya, Turkey, East Timor, Haiti and Bougainville.

Interventions in the last four sessions of the Subcommissions on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities were on such topics as the situations in the Middle East; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; contemporary forms of slavery; human rights of indigenous peoples; intolerance and discrimination; the administration of justice and human rights; freedom of movement; the situation regarding the promotion, full realization and protection of the rights of children and youth; the review of further developments; and, in close cooperation with other NGOs, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and apartheid, racism and discrimination. Briefings were organized or co-organized on Turkey, Indonesia and East Timor, West Papua and Bougainville.

Each year, a report has been published covering all the oral and written interventions, an overview of the activities of the representatives, and an analysis of the sessions of both the Commission for Human Rights and the Subcommission. These reports have been widely distributed within the movement. Fact-finding visits and missions have studied the human rights situations in Central Africa (1995), the Middle East (1997) and Central America and Mexico (1997). Cardinal Danneels, on behalf of Pax Christi International, and Dr. Konrad Raiser, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, published a joint declaration in which they characterized nuclear dissuasion as morally perverse. They were both present in Geneva for the Preparatory Committee of the Review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in April 1998. Members attended the seminar organized by the High Commissioner for Human

Rights on "Enriching the universality of human rights: Islamic perspectives on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in November 1998.

In Vienna, the organization's representative is active within the NGO Committee on Disarmament. As a member of that committee, he has much contact with official delegates and members of the United Nations Secretariat. Special involvement was developed in matters of nuclear-weapon-free zones, NPT, the campaign to ban landmines and nuclear weapons and Abolition 2000. A specific concerns of the representative in Vienna is the rights of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants.

9. World Society of Victimology

(Special consultative status granted in 1982)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

The World Society of Victimology (WSV) has as its purpose to advance victimological research and practices throughout the world by various means like the triennial International Symposium on Victimology, publications, seminars, international networking of victimologists and facilitating international, national, regional, and local cooperation to promote the welfare of victims throughout the entire world.

In the reporting period the World Society increased its membership considerably and now has representation in Angola, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Romania, Scotland, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Suriname, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The number of members from Australia, South Africa and East Asia has grown considerably. This is due to the growing awareness of victims' rights in these countries and to conscientious promoting of the cause in these regions on the part of the Society.

The reporting period has seen growth in national and regional societies of victimology in Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Greece, Indonesia, Serbia, Spain and in Asia.

There are no substantial changes in the sources of funding; WSV finances its activities exclusively from membership contributions.

There are no formal affiliations with other NGOs in consultative status except that WSV is regularly represented at the Board of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC). For ISPAC, WSV members contributed to the 1999 paper "Restorative justice", which was officially submitted to the Centre for International Crime Prevention in Vienna.

WSV cooperated with the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP), attended the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at the sessions of the International Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of

a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in Vienna, and was active at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. It concentrated on working actively in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice expert group on victims of crime and abuse of power in the international setting held from 18 to 22 December 1995 in Vienna and at subsequent meetings in the United States and the Netherlands and was involved in drafting the implementation manual for the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted in 1985 by General Assembly resolution 40/34. The Declaration was in the 1980s the main success of the World Society of Victimology. It had been drafted first within the World Society by Irvin Waller (Canada) and LeRoy Lamborn (United States).

The Secretary-General issued a statement on restorative justice and on victims in the International Court of Justice in February 1997 as a contribution to the special issue of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice newsletter (May 1997). He was involved in the deliberations to prepare Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/28 on firearm regulation for purposes of crime prevention and public health and safety and in the deliberations which led to Council resolution 1997/31 on victims of crime and abuse of power.

WSV was involved in the preparations for the *Guide for Policy Makers on the Implementation of the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* and for the *United Nations Handbook on Justice for Victims*.

WSV and its Secretary-General were involved in the work of the subcommittee studying the effects of traumatic stress on victims of crime under a joint project of the United Nations and the International Society on Traumatic Stress Studies.

WSV delegations at the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights during the reporting period have been directed by Syed Nazir Gilani and Marie-Pierre de Liege of the Arab World Institute.

WSV held two big international symposia on victimology in the reporting period, one in Amsterdam and one in Montreal. Both symposia discussed the role of the United Nations and the relevance of the United Nations Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. In Montreal, WSV celebrated a whole-day symposium for the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration with 1,300 participants, including high-ranking officials from the United Nations and several ministers of justice from different countries.

A very important role in disseminating detailed knowledge about the Declaration, the *Guide for Policy Makers* and the *United Nations Handbook on Justice for Victims* were the main activities of WSV besides the triennial symposia. WSV conducted international post-graduate courses on victimology, victim assistance and criminal justice. In every year of the reporting period these bi-weekly seminars were conducted at the Inter-University Centre of Dubrovnik, bringing together every year about 30 students from different nations and about 25 professors, including the members of the Executive Committee of WSV. Since 1998, the Asian Post-Graduate Courses in Victimology and Victim Assistance have been organized at Tokiwa University in Mito, Japan. In total, about 160 post-graduate students have become familiar with the details of the Declaration and have spread and will spread this knowledge as multipliers in their respective countries, a contribution to the dissemination and implementation of the Declaration worldwide.

As a last point of describing the relationships of WSV to the United Nations it should be mentioned that WSV could not keep its President in that position because he became the Principal Officer of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

At various levels and on various occasions, WSV has cooperated with the United Nations bodies mentioned in this report and WSV is determined to continue this good cooperation in the future.

10. France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

The purpose of France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, founded in 1986, is to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of individual and collective freedoms throughout the world and to help women and men working for those goals, to help disadvantaged creative minds wherever they may be to bring their ideas to fruition, to provide support to all those who by virtue of their social status or environment risk destitution and abject poverty.

France Libertés has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and makes regular submissions to the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights during their respective sessions in March, April and August of each year in Geneva. France Libertés also participates in conferences, seminars and meetings organized during those sessions by both the Commission and non-governmental organizations.

In 1994, France Libertés participated in the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights and presented oral reports on Western Sahara, in cooperation with Pax Christi International, as well as on Iraq, East Timor, Tibet and Colombia, in association with that country's human rights coordination organization, during which we called the wife of a man who had disappeared to testify. In August 1994, France Libertés participated in meetings of the Subcommission devoted to the fight against discriminatory measures and the protection of minorities.

France Libertés also contributed to preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and to efforts to increase awareness of its objectives and participated in the Conference. The Conference proposed that the General Assembly should appoint a High Commissioner for Human Rights.

France Libertés helped to organize several concerts at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to assist various Latin American associations (Violeta Parra Foundation of Chile, Children for Music from Bolivia, Chile and Argentina, and the Pastoral Association from Colombia).

In 1995, France Libertés participated in the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights. Our organization made submissions on several agenda items: East Timor, Western Sahara, Tibet, Colombia, Iraq, Togo, Mauritania and, together with the national branch of the International Federation of ACAT (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture), Peru. In August, our active work in the Subcommission in Geneva took the form of persistent efforts to increase awareness of the situation in Turkey, Peru and Colombia. As a result, after numerous

meetings, and after much negotiation between experts and governments, France Libertés and a large number of NGOs succeeded in bringing a resolution on Colombia before the Subcommission for the first time. As was the case for Turkey, a decision was adopted on freedom of speech. With regard to Peru, we persuaded the Chairman of the Subcommission to make a declaration on impunity in Peru. We also made submissions on China regarding the situation of the dissident Harry Wu as well as Bahrain, Turkey, Iraq, Peru, Kosovo, ex-Yugoslavia, and the Caucasus.

In 1996, as in previous years, France Libertés participated in the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. We made presentations on agenda items relating to Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Colombia. At the Subcommission, in August, we made a submission on Brazil during which Ms. Jeanete Capeberibe, Deputy from the State of Amapa, spoke on behalf of France Libertés to discuss the problem of the massacres of landless peasants in that country, as well as presentations on the situation of the Kurds in Iraq and on East Timor.

France Libertés also participated in the meeting of the working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In 1997, France Libertés participated in the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and made presentations on East Timor, Western Sahara, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Colombia and Peru. In August, we also participated in the Subcommission and made presentations on Colombia, Turkey, the Comoros, Peru, Bahrain, China, Myanmar, Mauritania, Iran and Israel.

A representative of France Libertés visited Colombia in February 1997 to participate in the international NGO preparatory meeting for the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

France Libertés is also a regular participant in meetings, seminars and events organized by UNESCO.

With regard to United Nations resolutions:

(a) In our many submissions on human rights and individual and collective freedoms to the Governments of various countries, we refer to the Charter of the United Nations and its various resolutions, where warranted, to remind the authorities of the need to respect these principles enunciated therein. We made many submissions but will not list them in this short report;

(b) Ms. Danielle Mitterrand, President of France Libertés, had informal meetings with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and took the opportunity to raise the issue of the human rights situation in several countries;

(c) The resolutions and role of the United Nations are frequently referred to in various contexts in the Foundation's quarterly publication, *Lettre de la Fondation*.

The efforts of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations do not always lead to rapid action and satisfactory results on the part of the Organization. It is also true that NGOs have less and less time to make their presentations: currently only five minutes rather than 10 in the past. In addition, States have a right of reply to NGO reports, but the NGOs have no such right. It is, however, important that NGOs be

present in the Commission and Subcommission because, to some extent, they complement their work. Indeed, although the United Nations has greater material and political resources, it is not as present in the field as non-governmental organizations, which are in constant contact with local conditions and populations and can transmit any complaints they receive. NGOs also can and must highlight inconsistencies in actions taken by the United Nations as well as remind it of its obligations.

11. International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Aims and purposes

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ) was created in 1969 as a membership association of Jewish lawyers and jurists. Its principal purpose is to contribute to the establishment of an international legal order based on the rule of law in relations between all nations and to promote respect for human rights and the equality of all peoples and States in order that they may live together in peace. IAJLJ also studies problems of particular interest to Jewish communities and to the State of Israel. It is thus mainly composed of Jewish members, while also being open to all lawyers and jurists who identify with the objects of IAJLJ, irrespective of belief, creed or any other distinction whatever. Its current membership comprises lawyers and jurists in 50 countries throughout the world, whether at the bar, on the bench, as judicial officials, legal advisers or academics.

Participation in subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

During the reporting period following the granting of special consultative status in August 1995, the representative of IAJLJ personally attended or closely followed proceedings of the fifty-second through fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the forty-seventh through fiftieth sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (subsequently renamed the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights). IAJLJ made the following oral statements to these two bodies:

(a) Commission on Human Rights:

(i) Fifty-second session: statement made on 29 March 1996 commenting on the report of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance (E/CN.4/1996/95) and recommending the adoption of a convention based on the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;

(ii) Fifty-third session: statement made on 19 March 1997 likewise commenting on the Special Rapporteur's report on the implementation of the 1981 Declaration (E/CN.4/1997/91) and the deterioration of the overall situation in this regard in the intervening year;

(iii) Fifty-fourth session: IAJLJ was principally concerned with the reform of its agenda and contacted many delegations of the Commission on this question, having in the previous year been active in the presentation of the non-governmental organization community's written statement on this matter;

(b) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: IAJLJ was similarly associated with making proposals for reforming this body's working methods presented by the non-governmental organization community. Furthermore, the IAJLJ representative made oral statements to the Subcommission as follows:

(i) Forty-seventh session: statement made on 25 August 1995 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief;

(ii) Forty-eighth session: statement made on 12 August 1996 on the role of the Subcommission in combating racism and racial discrimination and the contribution of its Working Group in promoting the implementation of the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

(iii) Forty-ninth session: statements made on 12 August 1997 on the comprehensive examination of thematic issues relating to the elimination of racial discrimination, and on 27 August 1997 on terrorism and human rights.

IAJLJ participated in a seminar organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, held in Geneva from 10 to 14 November 1997, on the role of the Internet in the light of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, intervening in the proceedings notably to contribute documentation produced in its periodical *Justice*, No. 12, of March 1997 and earlier issues, on the propagation of racist propaganda on the Internet.

IAJLJ has also closely followed developments at the sessions of the treaty bodies supervising the implementation of the human rights conventions, held in Geneva throughout the reporting period. *Justice* (No. 19 (1998), p. 23) contains an article on reporting by Israel to these bodies.

IAJLJ attended all sessions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Its representative consulted successive Directors of the Department of International Protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on issues arising with respect to the grant of asylum, instances of actual or feared denial of the principle of non-refoulement and the role of non-governmental actors in various countries in creating conditions giving rise to the well-founded fear of persecution, which the competent national authorities are unable or unwilling to remove.

Consultations

Also during the period under review, IAJLJ held consultations with officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Thus, following the grant of consultative status to IAJLJ, its President and the Geneva representative met the Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, early in May 1996 to introduce the IAJLJ's programme of activities in the field of human rights and to inform him of its principal preoccupations. Subsequently, following the concerns that IAJLJ had expressed in a statement which was formally adopted at its eleventh International Congress in Jerusalem on 31 December 1998 (published in *Justice* No. 20) and submitted to Mrs. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 25 May 1999, including several

matters falling directly within her competence, a meeting took place between the United Nations High Commissioner, the IAJLJ President Judge Hadassa Ben-Itto and the IAJLJ Geneva representative on 8 July 1999, at which a constructive exchange of views took place. The United Nations High Commissioner agreed to publish an article in the IAJLJ periodical *Justice* (it appears in the January 2000 issue).

Publications

As noted above, the principal publication of IAJLJ is *Justice*. Issued quarterly, it describes the Association's activities, including its triennial congresses, international meetings and seminars. It contains articles by learned academicians, judges, practitioners and other experts on legal issues of interest to the membership as a whole, including several articles on United Nations-related matters. In addition to those cited above, these include articles on the following subjects: the inaugural statement on religious intolerance made by the IAJLJ representative at the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (No. 7, p. 25); arms control and the United Nations experience in Iraq (No. 8, p. 17); report on the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (No. 10, p. 36); dangerous censorship of a United Nations rapporteur (No. 14, p. 10); and the International Criminal Court (No. 18, p. 19).

IAJLJ will be installing its web site on the Internet. The web site, to be operational in the course of February 2001, will feature articles published in *Justice* (including those cited above), which could be supplied as required.

12. World Safety Organization

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Introductory statement recalling aims and purposes

The following report recounts some of the activities of the World Safety Organization (WSO) at the United Nations for the quadrennial period 1995-1998. It is recalled that the purpose of WSO since its founding in Manila in 1975, reaffirmed when it relocated to the United States of America in 1985 during tumultuous times in the Philippines, has been to internationalize the safety and accident prevention movement and spread as widely as possible throughout the world the benefits of practices, skills, arts and technologies of safety and accident prevention. Protection of people, resources, environment and property has always been the major focus of WSO activities and programmes. WSO is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian, multidisciplinary, multicultural international professional organization working in the public interest. It receives no support from any sources other than membership dues, conference fees and publication, professional attire and accessories income.

Summary of WSO activities on behalf of the United Nations for the period 1995-1998

WSO has global professional interests in safety, health and environmental protection. Therefore, for example, WSO has participated in conference proceedings (notably the sixth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development) and Dr. Seiden, WSO Main Representative, has made various contacts with ILO, UNDP and

other agencies. As time progresses, WSO would hope to contribute to substantive United Nations concerns consistent with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, part IV, paragraphs 28-32, and part V, paragraphs 34-39. Paragraph 39 entitled "Special studies" is of particularly critical interest to WSO since WSO has organizational expertise and commitments in safety, health and environmental protection, which are significant areas of concern to diverse United Nations agencies, programmes, organizations etc.

WSO has applied for reclassification from special to general consultative status. Its original application was submitted in 1998, and a second one in 1999 after the first was evidently lost during renovation and relocation of various offices at the United Nations. It is understood the application will be acted upon in June 2000.

Public information and relations are "substantive" areas of United Nations concern since, on balance, it is largely through civil society grass-roots outreach programming of the United Nations that groundwork is laid for later application of United Nations resources around the world to solve international problems. In this spirit, Dr. Seiden has written extensively on behalf of WSO as its main representative to the United Nations.

He produced a limited-edition manual for WSO distributed within WSO and the United Nations entitled *The United Nations: A Managerial Focus and Framework for Understanding* in addition to a much more expansive one for the education of WSO-United Nations representatives. A copy of each was deposited in 1998 with the Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Resource Centre. His small brochure, also written for WSO for general distribution is entitled *What is the United Nations and What's in it for US? The Work of the United Nations and its Benefits to the United States*. Both of these publications were offered to various offices at the United Nations for their unlimited use. The larger manual was entitled *Operations, Resource and Training Manual for WSO Representatives and Liaison Officers to the United Nations*.

Also in preparation since 1997, recently completed and submitted in May 2000 to Dr. Hanifa Mesoui of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for her approval prior to presentation of a copy by WSO to the Secretary-General is the manuscript for a new book completed by Dr. Seiden entitled *Problem-solving in the Third Millennium: The Ergonomics and Management of Problem-solving*. This book addresses a pervasive problem-solving "virus" which he terms "defeatability proneness".

A unique programme originally conceived by him several years ago (late 1998) but only recently inaugurated owing to the pressures of business is a tour programme, whereby groups of people representing various non-governmental organizations are bussed to New York United Nations Headquarters. Dr. Seiden provides a 15-20 minute briefing on the United Nations en route to the United Nations. Two tours of this type were finally programmed and conducted in 2000. They basically include a tour of the United Nations combined with a luncheon in the Delegates Dining Room. Where feasible, there is an emphasis on those works included in the United Nations art collection that are publicly accessible. Thus, this particular programme will span two quadrennial reports, namely, 1998 and 2002. It is envisioned that the programme concept and preliminary procedures manual will be bequeathed by WSO to the Department of Public Information for its use in encouraging other non-governmental organizations to participate in such a

programme and implement it in their own areas. (Dr. Seiden has arranged such tours thus far for local New Jersey groups.)

Some WSO publications contain references to the United Nations including one WSO tech letter containing an article on sustainable development prepared by Dr. Seiden for the WSO membership. In 1995, two tech letters and one news letter carried articles on the United Nations. These are related to its origins, milestones and achievements, and support for the United Nations by WSO on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. In 1998, Dr. Seiden made a kick-off presentation on the United Nations at the WSO Twelfth Annual World Safety and Accident Prevention Congress in Dallas, Texas.

WSO has conducted Global Safety Round Tables at its Annual World Safety and Accident Prevention Congresses and publishes the proceedings thereof. It publishes an International Consultants Directory annually and its newsletters, during the period 1995-1998, have carried articles on occupational health and safety in a multicultural environment, child safety from a global perspective, radiation processing in public health: the potential in Ghana, overview of the current activities of the European Community in the field of injury and accident prevention, safety management in Czech plants, moving into the Asia-Pacific region? a corporate checklist for health planning, emergency response, safety training for Russian oilfield workers, WSO Board of Certified Governmental Safety and Environmental Health Officers etc. There also have been various articles on WSO certification programmes and boards, which are international in scope.

In addition to the above, WSO representatives have attended various weekly Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations briefings. Owing to pressures of time and personal commitments, these have had to be carefully selected on the basis of relevance to WSO priority interests. Although the WSO world view is panoramic, it has been virtually impossible for any WSO representative to attend more than, perhaps, one meeting a month on average, even in the case of Dr. Seiden who, however, has been able to schedule greater coverage when required including, for example, attendance at every meeting of the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. His predecessor main representative, Mr. Larry Gell, attended virtually every briefing and videotaped them while he was active at the United Nations on behalf of WSO. These videotapes are filed in the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations Resource Centre in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library building.

In 1998, a logo designed by Dr. Seiden was offered to the Commission on Sustainable Development for consideration as its own logo. Although WSO has not been contacted by the Commission as yet, WSO hopes that it may ultimately prove to be of interest to either the Commission on Sustainable Development or the United Nations generally. This logo is believed by WSO to be descriptive of the sustainable development process and its holistic integration of people, resources, technology and the environment for the "world good".

During 1998, Dr. Seiden prepared a product safety standard for WSO entitled "World Safety Standard on Product/Physical Safety — WSO/PPSS 01.1-1998". Copies of this standard were distributed at the 1998 World Safety Congress referred to above. The standard not only incorporates provisions relating to the "Standard Rules of Practice (ROP) for Safety and Accident Prevention", but also emphasizes the human factors and ergonomics approach to safety problem-solving. Consistent with the overarching United

Nations focus on human rights, the Standard contains the following specification in its definition of ergonomic design: "... ergonomically acceptable designs incorporate, among other things, human rights content".

13. Simon Wiesenthal Center

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Introduction

Founded by its present Dean, Rabbi Marvin Hier, the Simon Wiesenthal Center is an international Jewish human rights organization with a membership of 440,000. Established in Los Angeles in 1977, it draws the lessons of the Holocaust to the analysis of contemporary issues.

The Center carries the name of the Nazi investigator who has brought over 1,100 war criminals to the bar of justice. Still active in his ninety-first year in the city of Vienna, his purpose in granting his name to an institution in his own lifetime was to prevent a recurrence of the Holocaust for any people.

His Center today is truly international, with offices throughout the United States and regional bureaux in Toronto, Paris, Jerusalem and Buenos Aires. Though the majority of membership are in North America, there are expanding support groups in the United Kingdom, across Europe and in Latin America. The Center maintains an extensive global network of correspondents on human rights issues.

It has held NGO status at sessions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and is represented on the Executive Board of the European Network against Racism (ENAR), which has consultative status with the European Commission and the European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network (RAXEN) in Vienna.

Even before achieving consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Wiesenthal Center had already worked in cooperation with such United Nations specialized agencies as UNESCO:

(a) Holding a joint conference in Paris in 1992 on "Educating against prejudice — the case of resurgent anti-Semitism". This resulted from a meeting between Simon Wiesenthal and UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor that addressed the incipient problem of "technology in the service of hate", i.e. the pernicious effect upon young people of neo-Nazi computer games;

(b) In 1993, Mr. Mayor opened the Center's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles — a hi-tech human rights laboratory, since then visited by over 3 million people. This educational arm is directed to youth and, by interactive pedagogy, sets personal challenges in confronting the dilemmas of democracy and the Culture of Peace. Such world leaders as the late King Hussein of Jordan, President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, the Dalai Lama, the late President Herzog of Israel, diplomats and members of United Nations missions have visited and spoken from its podium. The museum is the focus for the civic action "Tools for tolerance" programme that trains military personnel and law enforcement agents towards sensitivity to social pluralism.

Participation in United Nations meetings

At the close of the United Nations Year for Tolerance in November 1995 in New York, Simon Wiesenthal addressed the General Assembly as a delegate of Austria. In his statement, he warned the global community of the potential for atrocity in the former Yugoslavia, urging immediate international measures. As a result, the Center was involved in several Year of Tolerance pedagogical initiatives in European educational institutions through its mobile 40-panel exhibition "The courage to remember" and its Oscar-winning documentary film, "Genocide".

In 1996, the Center's Associate Dean, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, sounded an alarm on "Hate, terrorism and mayhem on the Internet" at the Commission on Human Rights session in Geneva.

During the European Year against Racism in 1997, the Center organized an international high school essay competition together with UNESCO and the European Parliament. The 28 laureates from 15 countries were received at both organizations' headquarters in Paris and Strasbourg, respectively, where they were received by the Parliament's President and UNESCO's Director-General.

In 1998, the Center "premiered" its second Oscar-winning documentary, "The Long Way Home", at the United Nations Office at Geneva, co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the United States. The film is a case study of the refugee phenomenon (survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, confined in Western internment camps from 1945 to 1948, seek safe haven — a home).

In the same year, the Center held a conference on "Past and present — from Nuremberg to The Hague" at United Nations Headquarters. Participants included United States Senator Christopher Dodd, *Newsday* Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Roy Gutman, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, Mohamed Sacirbey, emeritus Chairman of the United Nations Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in the Former Yugoslavia, Cherif Bassiouni, the Center's Washington, D.C. legal counsel, Martin Mendelsohn, and the Director of the Center's Task Force against Hate, Mark Weitzman.

On 19 March 1999, the Center distributed its CD-ROM "Digital hate 2000", exposing some 1,500 Internet sites that promote racism and violence. This was given to every United Nations delegation.

On 4 November 1999, the Center opened "Visas for life: the righteous diplomats" at the United Nations Office at Geneva. This exhibition honoured diplomats who during the Second World War courageously rescued thousands of Jews from the Nazi Holocaust. They included Hiram Bingham, Jr. of the United States of America, Aristedes de Sousa Mendes of Portugal, Chiune Sugihara of Japan and Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden. The exhibition will also open in the Visitors' Gallery Museum Exhibit area of United Nations Headquarters on 3 April 2000, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Center will be bringing especially from Europe several of the surviving diplomats.

Cooperation with specialized agencies

In June 1999, the Center organized, together with UNESCO, an international conference in Moscow on "Tolerance-building for civic society — against extremism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism" under the patronage of the Mayor of

Moscow, the Ministry of Nationalities of the Russian Federation, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Presidential Commission on Human Rights and the Russian National Commission of UNESCO.

In the same month, the Center held, together with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, and in the framework of the UNESCO Culture of Peace programme, an international colloquium in Vienna on "Confronting crimes against humanity — from human rights to international responsibilities", with a special session on "Kosovo in the mirror of Nuremberg".

Other relevant activities

The following events were held at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles:

(a) 29 October 1998, "Artists and refugees: war-exiled Bosnian women weave the fabric of hope". This exhibition was presented in cooperation with the Susret Art Workshop in Austria, the Austrian Consulate General of Los Angeles and the Austrian Cultural Institute of New York, and Soroptimist International. Composed of 45 tapestries, quilts and rugs handcrafted by Bosnian women refugees in Austria together with drawings by children traumatized by the ethnic violence in the Balkans;

(b) 5 December 1998, "Reunions: the lost children of Rwanda". This exhibition, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, was sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company and Life Magazine. The 6,000 portraits included were part of the over 20,000 photographs displayed in refugee camps, intended to reunite lost Rwandan children with their families;

(c) 25 February 1999, "International symposium and eyewitness report on slavery in Africa today: a call for freedom", co-sponsored by the American Anti-Slavery Group, Inc. and Loveland Church. The symposium features first-person accounts from escaped slaves and historians with interactive discussion on effective international responses;

(d) The Wiesenthal Center in 1994 launched ARARE (Academic Response to anti-Semitism and Racism in Europe), currently comprising over 500 rectors and professors of all faiths and disciplines at universities in more than 30 countries across Europe. ARARE conferences have included "Resurgent Fascism as a threat to minorities" (Oxford, United Kingdom, 1994), "From xenophobia to tolerance — Jews and Muslims" (Paris, 1995), "The smiling face of Fascism" (London, 1996), "World War II combatants and neutrals — shattered myths and deconstructed memories" (Brussels, 1997), "Hate on the Internet — dangers and realities" (Paris, 1998), "Fifty years of human rights — visions and realities" (Prague, 1999);

(e) The Center, through its Moriah Films Division, has produced four full-length documentaries, two of which have won an Academy Award: Genocide (Oscar 1981), Echoes that Remain (based on Eastern European film archives opened after 1989), Liberation (on the Normandy landings), The Long Way Home (Oscar 1998 for its study of the refugee phenomenon).

Simon Wiesenthal, the man, will mark his ninety-first birthday on 31 December 1999. Still active in combating the consequences of totalitarianism, he has said "I have received many honours in my life. The greatest honour is that the Center that bears my name will ensure that my work is continued: ..."

14. International Federation of Human Rights Leagues

(Special consultative status granted in 1952)

The International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) was founded in 1922. Its objective, since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, has been to work for the concrete implementation of the Declaration. During the past 50 years, as a non-governmental organization recognized by the United Nations since 1952, it has greatly expanded its activities, sending missions to many countries, systematizing legal cooperation and training programmes with local partners in recent years and working with international institutions. At its thirty-third congress, held in Dakar from 20 to 23 November 1997, the Federation's international network was greatly expanded and currently comprises 105 member organizations, including 64 affiliates and 41 corresponding leagues in 86 countries. A list of those organizations appears in the annex to this report.

Some of the themes which IFHR considered to be priorities for action during the period under review and which guided its work within the United Nations system are: combating impunity, implementing economic and social rights, guaranteeing women's rights as fundamental human rights and protecting human rights defenders.

The Federation's permanent delegations to the United Nations in Geneva and New York have allowed for daily monitoring of its activities relating to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

IFHR has continued to participate actively in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions) and of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (forty-eighth to fifty-first sessions), and in the working groups created by those bodies. During the sessions, the IFHR delegation was made up of representatives of its member organizations and officials and deputies of its leadership bodies. IFHR seeks to facilitate access by national human rights organizations to the work of those bodies.

Up to 1997, the sessions of the Commission and the subcommission provided important informational and training opportunities for officials of the Federation's member organizations, who are active at the field level. Accordingly, training seminars were also organized. Their purpose was to promote dialogue and cooperation between human rights defenders and representatives of States and to develop the best possible cooperation between non-governmental organizations in the field and the bodies and procedures of the United Nations.

IFHR also contributed to United Nations efforts undertaken within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, particularly the plan to create a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system, and the draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights. IFHR participated in the sessions of the Subcommission's Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and those of the Commission's working group on a draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights.

In addition, IFHR made a substantial contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, mainly through written statements and a number of oral statements under different agenda items, with a view to facilitating the work of those bodies.

Participation in sessions of the treaty bodies

The Federation participated in the sessions of the following treaty bodies: Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee against Torture. During those sessions it provided the expert members with potentially useful information for their consideration of the periodic reports of States parties. It also made written and oral statements at several sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Between October 1998 and October 1999, IFHR implemented a training programme for representatives of its member organizations that enabled them to contribute to the work of some sessions and familiarized them with the treaty monitoring system.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

The Federation now has formal consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In that capacity, under review, particularly in 1998, it contributed to the preparation of the draft programme and budget for 2000-2001.

In addition, the Federation has been admitted to the International Labour Organization Special List of non-governmental organizations and, in that capacity, is a participant in the International Labour Conference.

Other activities

Actions to promote the implementation of United Nations resolutions

During the period under review, IFHR cooperated on a regular basis with the mechanisms created by United Nations resolutions, particularly the thematic and geographic special rapporteurs, by providing them with information relevant to the discharge of their mandate.

IFHR participated in the standard-setting working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, particularly the working group on a draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights, the working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

IFHR participated in the work of the Subcommission's Working Group on Minorities and, in response to the appeal made by the Working Group, contacted its 105 affiliate leagues throughout the world to encourage them to contribute to the

work of the Working Group's fourth session in May 1998 on the theme of minority rights in education.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples of the Commission and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Consultations and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat

IFHR met several times with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It provided information on a regular basis to the special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights through their assistants at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Documents prepared at the request of the Secretary-General

IFHR provided information on various issues as requested by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

IFHR also contributed information on a regular basis for the preparation of various studies undertaken by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

15. Equality Now

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

Equality Now is an international human rights organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of women's rights around the world. Equality Now's mission is to end violence and discrimination against women and to gain universal recognition of women's rights as human rights through the mobilization of public pressure. With this in mind, the following long-term goals for the organization were outlined:

(a) To campaign for the reform of law and practices that discriminate against women;

(b) To contribute towards the global campaign to end violence against women;

(c) To promote the equal partnership of women in decision-making.

Issues of concern to Equality Now include trafficking in women, rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, denial of reproductive rights, and other forms of violence and discrimination against women which result in the degradation, enslavement, injury and death of girls and women every day. Equality Now documents violations of these rights and, through its international Women's Action

Network, adds an international action component to support local and national efforts on behalf of women's rights and on behalf of individual women who are suffering human rights violations.

The Women's Action Network is the core of Equality Now. The Network consists of almost 10,000 groups and individuals in more than 100 countries around the world who take action in response to appeals on behalf of individual women, participate in campaigns on broader women's issues, and channel information on the status of women and violations of women's rights in their countries back through the Network. Appropriate actions designed to stop abuses or to implement effective preventive or remedial measures are addressed to Governments as well as, in some cases, non-governmental entities and individuals.

Beijing+5 campaign

In July 1999, Equality Now launched a year-long campaign to highlight the importance of accountability for the commitments made by Governments at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). The Beijing +5 campaign focused on institutionalized gender discrimination in national laws to illustrate the failure by Governments to honour commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted in Beijing, as well as other international legal agreements signed and ratified by those Governments. With the participation of national and local women's groups around the world, Equality Now researched and compiled selected texts of gender discriminatory laws and issued Women's Action 16.1, a report highlighting a cross-section of laws in 45 countries that discriminate against women with regard to personal status, marital status, economic status and violence against women. Twenty-eight groups from 25 countries, as well as regional groups representing Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Europe, partnered with Equality Now in this campaign. Several of the groups are working actively to change the laws highlighted in the report as well as other discriminatory laws in their countries. The campaign called upon Governments to repeal or amend those laws prior to the Beijing +5 special session as a show of genuine commitment to the Platform for Action.

In addition to distributing the report to United Nations treaty-based bodies (such as the Human Rights Committee, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), members of the international media and the Women's Action Network, Equality Now also sent the report to the heads of State of the countries highlighted in it and to their permanent representatives to the United Nations. Equality Now also sent representatives to ensure that the campaign was raised at each of the regional preparatory conferences, in Bangkok, Addis Ababa, Geneva, Beirut and Lima, and to the final preparatory conference in New York. Equality Now also raised the campaign in individual meetings with United Nations missions.

As part of the campaign, Equality Now organized a briefing at the United Nations on 11 October 1999, co-sponsored by the Group on Equal Rights for Women in order to familiarize government representatives with the report.

During the special session, as with the final preparatory conference, Equality Now facilitated the participation of international activists and organized and coordinated the attendance of activists from 21 countries in East and Central

Europe. Equality Now also organized several events which focused on a performance piece entitled "Women Can't Wait!". Commissioned by Equality Now and written and performed by Sarah Jones, the piece brings to life the impact of discriminatory laws on the lives of women and girls around the world. The response to the piece was overwhelmingly positive, and subsequent media coverage highlighted the special session and the significance of the negotiations regarding discriminatory laws. Equality Now also held a press conference at the United Nations on 6 June with several of its campaign supporters and, throughout the week, met with representatives from women's groups in several countries and began collaboration with them on upcoming Women's Actions, including women's suffrage in Kuwait and honour killings in Jordan. Equality Now also presented a special performance for delegates in Conference Room 4, with an introduction by actress Gwyneth Paltrow and several open performances at Customs House.

Equality Now lobbied government delegates and non-governmental organization representatives to ensure that provisions providing for the repeal of discriminatory laws remained in the official version of the outcome document. Equality Now also suggested language for the combined non-governmental organization coalition document. Equality Now representatives also participated in the NGO consultation on 4 March 2000 and in several of the issue-based and regional caucuses.

Report for the Division for the Advancement of Women

In December 1997, Equality Now was recruited by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat to serve as the international non-governmental organization to coordinate a global project on domestic violence against women, funded by UNIFEM. The project involved five regional studies prepared by experts from the regions, who compiled information about new strategies and an evaluation of their impact. The overall objective of the project was to direct Governments, regional bodies, and civil society towards effective strategies at the national level. Drafts of the regional studies were prepared, and a meeting of the regional experts was held at the Division in August 1998. Subsequent revisions of the studies were made, and the final report will be published by the United Nations shortly.

Human Rights Committee

Since March 1995, Equality Now has been working to bring human rights violations against women to the attention of the Human Rights Committee. Working with women's rights groups in countries up for review by the Committee, Equality Now brings issues relating to women's rights to the attention of members of the Committee. Increasingly, the issues that Equality Now is raising with the Committee are being raised, in turn, by members of the Committee directly with the government delegations which appear before them to present their reports on compliance.

To date, Equality Now has raised concerns relating to violence against women, legally sanctioned discrimination, and reproductive rights in conjunction with its consideration of reports from Yemen, the United States, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong Province of China, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Zambia, Peru, Brazil, Lebanon, Colombia, India, Senegal, Lithuania, Sudan, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Ecuador, Israel, Algeria, United Republic of Tanzania,

Japan, Armenia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lesotho, Cambodia, Chile, Poland, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Cameroon and Mongolia.

Equality Now is the only women's rights group participating in the work of the Human Rights Committee on a regular basis, and many of the women's rights issues raised by Equality Now have been included in the Committee's concluding observations. Through its submissions, Equality Now has advanced several new arguments under international law relating to women and human rights. The Committee has taken note of these new arguments, and several of them have been incorporated into the Committee's work.

Jessica Neuwirth, President of the Board, spoke on a panel organized by the United Nations Development Programme, entitled Transforming Legislation: Challenges and Good Practices, held at the United Nations on 6 March 2000.

In September 2000, Equality Now held a screening of the documentary film "Crimes of Honor" for government and United Nations representatives at the United Nations and worked with the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to develop a resolution against honour crimes which was adopted by the General Assembly in October 2000.

16. Qatar Charitable Society

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

Qatar Charitable Society is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political society, Qatar-based, established in the early 1980s under the name Qatar Committee for Orphans. Due to the expansion of its services, the founders resolved to expand the aims and objectives and transformed the Committee into the present Qatar Charitable Society.

The aims and objectives of the Society centre on social, financial, health and educational services, including vocational training to orphans and widows. These were later extended to students, teachers and the disabled. The Society is involved in income-generating activities for poor families, provision of water and sanitation services, and emergency relief services mainly for refugees and communities hit by disaster.

Another activity is the Muslim-related provision of free meals during the month of fasting (Ramdan) and the distribution of sacrificial animals (a sacred Muslin act). The Society provides the same for non-Muslims living in the vicinity of Muslims.

The Society also engages in other charitable services, mainly the construction of hospitals, clinics and schools and, wherever possible, the provision of medical equipment to the newly built or existing facilities.

Women receive great attention from the Society, stemming from its services to windows. The Society established a parallel women's branch, active in the advocacy of women's issues, women's education, social services and income generation.

The Society's membership has increased to 60 members. It has built up a field presence in 48 countries worldwide.

The Society is a member of the following regional and international bodies: International Islamic Council for Dawa and Relief (Cairo); Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Rabat); Arab Network for NGOs (Cairo); International Islamic Charitable Organization (Kuwait); and Gulf Disability Society (Bahrain).

The Society is affiliated and has good relations with the Arab Gulf Fund for the United Nations Development Programme (AGFUND) and the Islamic Development Bank.

The Society had little relation with United Nations agencies before it was recognized by the Council in 1997 and by UNHCR in 1998. Since then the Society has held a number of working meetings with UNHCR in Geneva, Riyadh and Doha, which resulted in the following joint activities:

(a) A representative of the Society attended the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting in March 1999 at Geneva;

(b) A framework agreement for operational partnership between UNHCR and the Society was signed in March 1999 at Geneva;

(c) The Society assisted the UNHCR shelter, water and sanitation projects for Chechen refugees and displaced persons in Ingushetia with an amount totalling US$ 600,500 during 1999-2000;

(d) The Society participated in funding UNICEF water and sanitation projects for Chechen displaced persons in Ingushetia with a total of US$ 250,000;

(e) A joint UNHCR and Qatar Charitable Society workshop on law for the protection of refugees was convened (Doha, 17-18 October 2000) and was attended by local non-governmental organizations and representatives from Kuwait and Bahrain non-governmental organizations;

(f) A cooperation agreement between UNHCR and the Society was signed at Doha on 18 October 2000;

(g) Meetings were held between UNHCR and the Society's Kosovo office to work out joint project proposals for funding and joint implementation for the year 2001;

(h) The Society earmarked US$ 250,000 for continuing the water and sanitation services for the Chechen internally displaced persons;

(i) The Society allocated US$ 96,500 for the rehabilitation of the Barevo (Bosnia) village clinic and school, in response to a UNHCR appeal.

17. Muslim World League

(General consultative status granted in 1979)

The Muslim World League (MWL-Rabita) is an international, Islamic and non-governmental organization, founded in 1962 and headquartered in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Saudi Arabia. Its aims and objectives are in general conformity to those of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council, in addition to the following:

(a) To disseminate Islamic Dawah and expound the teaching of Islam;

(b) To defend Islamic causes in a manner that safeguards the interests of Muslims, solves their problems and refutes allegation against Islam;

(c) To promote peace, cooperation and solidarity among mankind.

Accordingly, MWL-Rabita participates in and promotes United Nations activities in the fields related to international peace and harmony, human rights, education, health, social and scientific development, upholding of religious values, rendering relief to refugees and minorities, and prevention of racial discrimination.

To accomplish these goals in close cooperation with the United Nations and its main organs and specialized agencies, MWL-Rabita maintains permanent offices at the United Nations offices in New York, Geneva and Paris. Furthermore, MWI-Rabita's permanent representatives maintain cordial working relations on a regular basis with the United Nations Secretariat, the Council, UNICEF, UNDP and other United Nations bodies and agencies. Likewise MWL-Rabita representatives have always maintained good working relations with the delegations of member States and other non-governmental organization representatives.

MWL-Rabita representatives have regularly participated in United Nations conferences and symposia and attended the General Assembly sessions, and the Secretary-General has attended similar events convened elsewhere, including:

(a) World Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt, 13-15 September 1994);

(b) World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995);

(c) NGO Forum on Women (Beijing, 30 August-15 September 1995);

(d) Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 4-15 September 1995);

(e) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 June 1996);

(f) Millennium Summit for Religious Leaders and Peace (United Nations Headquarters, 28-31 August 2000).

The MWL representative actively participated in the following events held at United Nations Headquarters:

(a) Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (13 March-5 April 1995);

(b) Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (21-22 October 1995);

(c) Annual meeting of Non-governmental Committee of UNICEF (4 June 1998);

(d) Seminar of NGOs on the Palestine Issue, on the theme "50 years for homeless Palestinian people";

(e) Fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights (14-16 September 1998);

(f) Fifth annual coordination meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (1 October 1998);

(g) Forty-third meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 1999), for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference, as well as in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on women (5-9 June 2000);

(h) Special session held on the fringes of the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (15 March 1999) at which the status of women was expounded from an Islamic point of view, followed by a reading at the concluding session of a communiqué by MWL-Rabita;

(i) Fifty-second Conference of NGOs (15-17 September 1999), on the theme "Challenges of globalization";

(j) Celebration of the International Solidarity Day with Palestinian People (29-30 November 1999);

(k) United Nations Workshop on the Internet (29 March 2000);

(l) Ninth Annual Conference of World Information Transfer Inc. (26-28 April 2000), on the theme "The advent of the new millennium";

(m) Millennium Forum (22-26 May 2000);

(n) Twenty-third extraordinary session of the General Assembly (5-9 June 2000).

The MWL-Rabita representative distributed a documentary memorandum regarding Quds (Jerusalem) to the Secretary-General and to 51 senior United Nations officials and permanent representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations. He also submitted a memorandum to the chairman of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on women (5-9 June 2000).

18. International Commission of Jurists

(Special consultative status granted in 1957)

The activities of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in the four years 1997-2000 have continued to be directed towards promoting the observance, respect for and implementation of human rights under the rule of law, activities relating to the violations of human rights, and international standard-setting.

A great number of activities concerning the promotion and protection of human rights and the observance of the rule of law have taken place within the United Nations, pursuant to the consultative status enjoyed by ICJ with the Council. They have included making reports and oral and written interventions, lobbying governmental delegates and members of United Nations bodies in support of proposals put forward and attending United Nations Committee meetings.

The subjects covered have included the World Summit on Social Development; indigenous populations; principles for the protection of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment; enforced or involuntary disappearances; administrative detention; the elimination of racial discrimination; economic, social and cultural rights; human rights defenders; establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court; World Conference against Racism, elaboration of a set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity, draft

basic principles and guidelines on the right to reparation for victims of violations of human rights, and international humanitarian law and other situations of human rights violations.

Activities relevant to the work of the Council

Establishment of an International Criminal Court

The establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) has been a key objective of ICJ for many years, and a number of activities were undertaken to lobby support and mobilize public opinion in this respect. In 1998, ICJ organized a joint round-table discussion in Geneva on Human Rights and International Criminal Prosecution: The Road to Rome. ICJ also hosted a meeting for the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court, which explored the practical arrangements for the Rome conference and the non-governmental organization strategy. Three briefing papers were prepared for the Rome conference. The ICJ's representative addressed the plenary conference, stating that the ICC should have jurisdiction over the three core crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. ICJ issued a brief assessment of the Rome Statute. In April 1999 a round-table discussion was organized to answer the questions relating to the aftermath of the Rome conference.

Follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development/Geneva 2000 Forum

ICJ participated actively in the special session of the General Assembly and the Geneva 2000 Forum, organized by the Swiss Government.

Indigenous populations

ICJ presented to the Commission on Human Rights in March 1999 the conclusions and recommendations of its mission to Mexico concerning the situation of human rights, with particular focus on the situation faced by indigenous communities in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca. ICJ also distributed a document on the existing discrimination against indigenous and black people in Peru to members of the Commission on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Working Group on Drafting a Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

ICJ participated actively in the Working Group. It welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Declaration on the Rights of Human Rights Defenders and the appointment of the Special Rapporteur.

Economic, social and cultural rights

In October 1998, ICJ, together with its section in Colombia, organized a seminar in Medellin on economic, social and cultural rights. The seminar focused on subjects such as the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the justiciability of those rights. In 1999 ICJ organized a workshop on the draft optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, under the auspices of UNHCHR. Follow-up activities were organized later in the year, and a second workshop will be organized in February 2001. In 1997, ICJ published a compilation of essential documents on economic, social and cultural rights. It submitted a written statement to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-

fifth session, on "Human rights in the context of globalization". It made an oral intervention to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, urging States to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Rights of the child

In December 1999, ICJ organized a seminar in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on state reporting to the United Nations treaty bodies, with special focus on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Rapporteur of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Chairperson and Secretary of the Covenant attended the seminar as resource persons. In January 2000, ICJ made video recordings of the proceedings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, along with interviews of the members of the Committee. The video record will be used as a training tool to familiarize Governments and non-governmental organizations alike on the working of the Committee in the Asia/Pacific region.

Enforced or involuntary disappearances

In May 1998, ICJ sent a letter to the Chairman of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced Disappearances concerning disappearances during the military dictatorship in Chile. ICJ was closely involved in the elaboration of a draft international convention on the protection of all persons from forced disappearance of the Subcommission's Working Group on Administration of Justice. In October 2000, ICJ organized a meeting addressed to the diplomatic missions in Geneva on the draft convention. In November 2000, ICJ submitted its comments on the draft convention to UNHCHR.

Administration of justice/independence of the judiciary and protection of lawyers

The ICJ's Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session the preliminary findings of the CIJL's annual report, *Attacks on Justice*. In August 1998, two statements were delivered before the session of the Working Group on the Administration of Justice and the Question of Compensation on the subject of the proposed universal convention against forced disappearances. ICJ also delivered to the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fiftieth session a statement on the administration of justice in Peru and Tunisia. In August 2000, ICJ asked the Working Group on the Administration of Justice to start a study on the administration of justice in the military court.

Gross and systematic violations of human rights

On many occasions ICJ made oral and written interventions of situations with which it has been concerned, particularly to the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission (6-10 interventions per session).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia

ICJ delivered oral interventions at the fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, to support the High Commissioner's report on Colombia and on the work of her office in Bogotá.

Right to reparation

During the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, ICJ hosted two meetings on basic principles on reparation. A compilation of essential documents, "The right to reparation for victims of human rights violations", was published. It comprised, inter alia, the draft principles that were prepared by the Subcommission's former Special Rapporteur.

Impunity of human rights violations

In 1997 and 1998, ICJ contributed to the elaboration of the Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through action to combat impunity, adopted by the Subcommission. At the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, ICJ organized a meeting on the Set of Principles.

World Conference on Racism and Racial Discrimination

ICJ participated actively in the ad hoc meetings in preparation of the forthcoming Conference which will be held in August 2001 in South Africa.

Diffusion of the jurisprudence of the treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

In 2000, ICIJ presented the *Amicus Curiae* and legal briefs before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the courts and authorities of Colombia, Peru and Argentina, explaining the jurisprudence and doctrine of the treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights regarding impunity and the right to reparation.

Information

ICJ publishes an annual *Review* (in English, French and Spanish), an annual *CIJL Yearbook* in English, an annual report entitled "Attacks on Justice: The Harassment and Persecution of Judges and Lawyers" in English, and a quarterly report in English.

These contain as a regular feature reports of meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission, the Human Rights Committee and of other United Nations meetings. Important United Nations documents are reproduced in full or in summary in the category "Basic texts" of the *ICJ Review* or as appendices to the *CIJL Yearbook*.

19. World Evangelical Alliance*

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) is a global network of 114 national and regional evangelical church alliances, 96 organizational ministries and six specialized ministries with a service constituency of approximately 160 million. In the 1990s WEF positioned itself as the pre-eminent church-based Evangelical

* Formerly World Evangelical Fellowship.

organization in the world. WEF members, such as the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) have spearheaded work in relief and development, church planting, leadership development, evangelism, and human rights within their nations and regions. The WEF International Council, the highest decision-

making body, has representatives from all over the world, primarily from developing countries in the "two thirds" world.

Participation in the work of the Council

WEF has been an active participant in United Nations meetings, presenting oral statements, providing information to experts, members and the Secretariat, and cooperating with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

WEF took part, as indicated, in the following recent meetings:

(a) Preparatory Committee for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (1-5 May 2000, Geneva);

(b) Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, fifty-second session (31 July-18 August 2000, Geneva): oral statements made on human rights and fundamental freedoms; elimination of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief; and minorities;

(c) Commission on Human Rights, fifty-sixth session (20 March-28 April 2000, Geneva): oral statements made on civil and political rights; human rights and fundamental freedoms; and minorities;

(d) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, fifty-first session (2-27 August 1999, Geneva): oral statements made on violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(e) Working Group on Minorities, forty-first session (25-31 May 1999).

WEF facilitated the setting-up and running of an office in Geneva to liaise with the United Nations. The full-time representative provided briefings, organized meetings, furnished information and liaised with United Nations working groups, rapporteurs and treaty monitoring bodies established under the Council in both Geneva and New York. In addition she provided information for General Assembly deliberations and liaised with and furnished information to other United Nations agencies, including UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO and WHO. WEF worked actively on the following thematic mandates of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: special rapporteurs on intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; torture; right to food; right to adequate housing; freedom of opinion and expression; sale of children; child prostitution and child pornography; impact of armed conflict on children; elimination of violence against women; special representative on internally displaced persons, and on the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention, Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Minorities and Transnational Corporations.

WEF has been instrumental in establishing, through the Council, pathways of peace and dialogue and openings for reconciliation. Through the relationships it helped to establish, constructive and far-reaching discussions and programmes have been set in place to promote greater understanding and religious and racial harmony.

WEF's Commission on Women's Concerns is active in promoting the social and economic progress of women, and WEF as a whole serves to ease interreligious tensions by promoting better understanding and bridge-building. Its function as the worldwide representative body for 160 million Evangelicals places it in a pivotal position to accomplish those objectives and WEF values the cooperation with the Economic and Social Council in doing so.

In April 2000 WEF's legal adviser was actively engaged in the adoption of a resolution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on restorative justice, in conjunction with another non-governmental organization with consultative status, Prison Fellowship International. In addition, the adviser organized the Rule of Law Forum at the United Nations in New York City as a vehicle for diplomats to meet informally and to discuss human rights, conflict resolution and ethics.